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August 4, 2003

The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chairman
Subcommittee on Water and Power
House Resources Committee
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water and Power
House Resources Committee
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 2828

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Napolitano:

Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) is pleased to support H.R. 2828. KCWA believes that reauthorizing the CalFED Bay-Delta Program is a necessary and indispensable step toward resolving California's long-standing water conflicts in the Bay-Delta.

The subcommittee's recent hearings in California and Washington D.C. have re-energized California's stakeholder community. As a member of that community, KCWA will be an active supporter in helping you move H.R. 2828 through the committee process and to a vote on the House floor.

KCWA recognizes that H.R. 2828 attempts to put the CalFED Program back into balance by placing CalFED's water supply programs on par with its ecosystem restoration programs. We believe that keeping CalFED balanced in this way is the best path to a successful long-term program that increases California's water supply and enhances its ecosystem.

H.R. 2828 includes authorization for CalFED's conveyance, storage and science programs that is of particular interest to KCWA. We believe that improving the conveyance capacity of the State Water Project (SWP) is the most immediate way to increase water supplies for both state and federal water contractors in areas south of the Delta. KCWA also supports the provisions of H.R. 2828 that carefully balance expansion of Banks

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Pumping Plant with the needs and concerns of agricultural interests in the South Delta.

As H.R. 2828 demonstrates, increasing surface and groundwater storage also is important to meeting California's long-term water supply needs. The expected increase in California's population over the next 20 years demands that we begin to meet those needs now. We believe that it is preferable to develop new surface and groundwater storage now, in the context of the CalFED program and with enough time to allow for a reasoned planning process that improves water supplies while protecting the environment. The alternative of waiting until population and water demand increase to crisis proportions, and then reacting in haste, will not provide the time necessary to balance the state's competing interests.

The CalFED Science Program provides the foundation for all of CalFED's programs. The Science Program is critical to many decisions on water supply that CalFED agencies will be making in the coming years. A strong scientific underpinning is necessary to ensure sure that the CalFED agencies make decisions based on sound science that maximize water supplies while benefiting the environment.

KCWA appreciates your continued efforts to reauthorize the CalFED Bay-Delta Program. Complex issues like CalFED require the type of strong leadership you and your committee have provided in recent years and we stand ready to support your efforts to reauthorize CalFED in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Thomas N. Clark
General Manager
Kern County Water Agency

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable William M. Thomas
The Honorable Calvin Dooley